

IN THE CLAIMS:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the claims annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A welded profile for fitting a digger (4) with a backhoe bucket (5) or a loading shovel (5'), such as a boom (6,6') and arms (7,7'), said profile comprising upper flanges (17) and lower flanges (16), as well as sidewalls (18) which are operatively connected thereto, characterized in that the sidewalls (18) are provided with upper and lower end regions (19,20) with reinforced profile which form the corner regions of the upper flange (17) and the lower flange (16) arranged between the end regions (19,20), wherein the end regions (19,20) are formed with separate sheet metal sheets which are adapted to the respective contours of the booms (6,6') and the arms (7,7') and are connected by welding to the respective sidewalls (18) with a thinner cross section, wherein the sidewalls (18) which are connected to the reinforced profile end regions (19,20) are provided with positioning locations for the cylinder attachment points (21).
2. (Currently Amended) The profile as defined in claim 1, characterized in that at least the lower flange (16) is positioned between the end regions (20), so as to be essentially flush with the respective end regions (20).

3. (Currently Amended) The profile as defined in ~~one of the~~ claims 1 ~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the end regions (19, 20) are provided with positioning locations (21) for the cylinder attachment points.
4. (Currently Amended) The profile as defined in ~~one of the~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 3, characterized in that the end regions (19, 20) are provided at least in part with cross-section reducing areas (27, 28).
5. (Currently Amended) The profile as defined in ~~one of the~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 4, characterized in that the cross-section reducing areas (27, 28) face the respective sidewall (18).
6. (Currently Amended) The profile as defined in ~~one of the~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 5, characterized in that the respective cross-section reducing area (27, 28) ends flush with the inside contour (29) of the associated sidewall (18).
7. (Currently Amended) The profile as defined in ~~one of the~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 6, characterized in that the respective cross-section reducing area (27, 28) ends flush with the outside contour (30) of the associated sidewall (18).

8. (Currently Amended) The profile as defined in ~~one of the~~ claims 1 to ~~7~~, characterized in that the respective cross-section reducing area (27, 28) converges in the center to flow into the inside and outside contour of the associated side wall (18).
9. (Currently Amended) The profile as defined in ~~one of the~~ claims 1 to ~~8~~, characterized in that the contour of the end regions (19) provided on the upper flange are embodied such that they serve directly or indirectly to accommodate in particular the cylinder attachment points (21).
10. (Currently Amended) The profile as defined in ~~one of the~~ claims 1 to ~~9~~, characterized in that connection elements (22, 24) can be welded on in the region of the exposed profile ends, embodied in particular with a hollow-box design, wherein the cross section of the connection element is adapted to the respective end cross section of the box.
11. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a welded profile for fitting a digger (1) with a backhoe bucket or loading shovel, such as a boom and arms, by welding the lower flange and the upper flange to the sidewalls, characterized in that the sidewalls (18) are connected in particular by means of welding to upper and lower reinforced-profile end regions (19, 20), that the lower flange (16) is inserted between the associated end regions (20) and is welded to it, and that the upper flange (17) is inserted between the associated end regions (19) and is welded to it, and that end

regions (19) on the upper and lower flange side have a contour designed to form integrated regions (11') for the cylinder attachment points (21).

12. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 11, characterized in that the sidewalls (18) and the associated end regions (19, 20) are shaped to match the contour of the respective boom (6, 6') and arm (7, 7'), that the end regions (19, 20) which are embodied with higher reinforcement than the sidewalls (18) are provided with cross-section reducing areas (27, 28) in the sidewall region and are connected in the cross-section reducing area (27, 28) by welding it to the respective sidewall (18).
13. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 11 or 12, characterized in that the contours of the end regions (20) on the lower flange are designed such that they form integrated regions for the cylinder attachment points (21).